Anthropology (ANTH) 4261/6261
Time: M/W 11:50AM/1:10PM
Location: Stewart Building 209

Instructor: Dr. Tyler Faith
Office: Stewart 121
E-mail: tyler.faith@anthro.utah.edu
Office hours: M/W 1:30-2:30PM or by appointment

Course description:
Paleoanthropology is the multidisciplinary field concerned with the biological and behavioral evolution of our hominin ancestors. Though traditionally associated with the study of the fossil remains of our hominin ancestors, contemporary paleoanthropology is often broadly defined to include research from the numerous fields that inform on hominin evolution, including archaeology, paleontology, geology, paleoclimatology, and genetics, among others. This course, which draws from evidence provided by all of these fields, provides a detailed overview of human biological and behavioral evolution over the last ~6 million years, ranging from the earliest hominins to the emergence of modern humans and their expansion across the globe.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and objectives:
This course aims to (1) introduce the fossil evidence pertaining to hominin evolution, and to outline the context of that evidence (e.g., geological age, paleoenvironment, archaeological context); (2) outline the interpretations of the hominin fossil record, and the strengths/weaknesses of those interpretations; (3) illustrate how data from numerous fields contribute to our understanding of hominin evolution; (4) outline the big questions and problems that dominate paleoanthropological inquiry.

Through attendance of lectures, participation in in-class discussions, and reading of assigned papers, the diligent student will (1) become familiar with the various types of evidence available to paleoanthropologists; (2) learn to discriminate between evidence and interpretations based on the evidence; (3) become sufficiently familiar with human anatomy to be able to understand simple descriptions of hominin fossil evidence; (4) gain familiarity with key research problems in paleoanthropology; (5) learn to critically evaluate hypotheses based on empirical evidence.

Textbooks:


This is the core textbook for the course; it provides a detailed overview of many topics covered in lecture.


This provides a brief overview of key topics on human biological evolution. All readings from this book are recommended but not required. It is available through the UU library as an e-book.
Readings:
The lectures for each week will be associated with specific reading assignments. These will be announced in class and posted to the course canvas site. The typical reading load for each week will include a section from the Klein (2009) text, as well as ~two additional articles. Readings from the Klein (2009) text are selected to supplement and reinforce the lectures, whereas additional assigned articles cover particular problems/topics/ideas in paleoanthropology. Lists of additional (recommended) papers will be provided for those who wish to read about topics in more depth.

Evaluation:
Students will be evaluated based on three in-class examinations (each worth 25% of your final grade) and an essay (25% of your final grade) due at the end of the semester. Examinations will include a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions, and will be based on material covered in lecture and readings. The essay will be ~2,000 words (± 200); details concerning essay topics and formatting requirements will be provided in class.

Course schedule:
The course is divided into three topical sections, each of which will culminate in an in-class examination.

Section 1 (Weeks 1-5)
Topics: Chronology and paleoenvironments, taxonomy and evolution, Miocene apes, earliest possible/probable hominins, and the australopiths.

Important dates:
January 15: No class (Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday)
February 7: Examination 1

Section 2 (Weeks 6-10)
Topics: Early Homo, Homo erectus and Homo ergaster, late archaic Homo, Lomekwian/Oldowan/Acheulean archaeology, climate change and hominin evolution

Important dates:
February 19: No Class (Presidents Day Holiday)
March 14: Examination 2
March 18-25: Spring Break

Section 3 (Weeks 11-15)
Topics: Neanderthals, modern human origins and dispersals, Middle and Later Stone Age archaeology, Middle and Upper Paleolithic archaeology

Important dates:
April 23: Examination 3
Department and University Policies

**ADA Statement:** The Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

**Addressing Sexual Misconduct:** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

**Wellness Statement:** Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness (www.wellness.utah.edu; 801-581-7776).

**Student Code:** (Policy 6-400) All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code (regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php). Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in S. II of the Code. The Code also specifies standards of behavior (S. III) and academic conduct (S. V). "Students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating" (S. VB). According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

**Incomplete Policy:** An "I" will only be given for work not completed because of circumstances beyond the student's control, providing the student is passing the course and needs to complete 20% or less of the work. Valid reasons for an "I" grade include: (a) An illness (documented by a medical statement) that precludes the ability of the student to perform; (b) an accident or situation that prevents the student from physically being present (documentation may be required); (c) Extreme emotional or other mental circumstances that are severe enough to interfere with a student's normal academic performance. If you do receive an "I", do not register for the course again. You must complete the required work in the time agreed by you and the instructor. If the work is not completed within one year, the grade will change to an "E". Faculty will not accept additional work to change the grade after that one-year period. If a student has a problem with the course, please deal with it immediately. It is the student's responsibility to contact instructors and submit necessary forms.

**Note:** The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.
CSBS EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

BUILDING EVACUATION

EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

U Heads Up App: There’s an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.

- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

**Safety Escorts:** For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call 801-585-2677. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.